AMENDMENTS

In the claims.

Claims 1-23 (canceled)

24. (currently amended) An **immunologically active** peptide **consisting of a fragment of** ~~comprising at least 15 consecutive amino acids selected from the amino acids in~~ the following amino acid sequence:
VWGIRQLRARLQALETLIQNQQRLNLWGXKGKLIXYTSVKWNTSWSGR **(SEQ ID NO: 1) wherein said fragment has at least 15 consecutive amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO: 1 and** wherein X is C or S.

25. (currently amended) The peptide of claim 24, wherein said at least 15 consecutive amino acids are selected from the amino acids in the following amino acid sequence:
RLQALETLIQNQQRLNLWGXKGKLIXYTSVKWN **(Residues 10-42 of SEQ ID NO: 1)** wherein X is C or S.

26. (currently amended) The peptide of claim 24 which binds antibodies against **HIV-1 subtype 0 virus** ~~**retroviruses of the HIV type**~~.

27. (currently amended) The peptide of claim 24, **wherein said fragment has** ~~comprising~~ from 20 to 30 consecutive amino acids **of SEQ ID NO:1**.

28. (previously presented) The peptide of claim 24 which further comprises, at one or both ends of the peptide, one or more sequences of amino acids, wherein said sequences are not taken from the amino acid sequence of the retrovirus MVP5180/91.

29. (previously presented) The peptide of claim 24, wherein X is C.

30. (previously presented) The peptide of claim 29, wherein C represents a cysteine residue in an oxidized state.

31. (currently amended) The peptide of claim 29, ~~comprising~~ **consisting of** the amino acid sequence RLQALETLIQNQQRLNLWGCKGKLIC **(SEQ ID NO: 3)**

32. The peptide of claim 31, wherein C represents a cysteine residue in an oxidized state.

33. (currently amended) The peptide of claim 29 ~~**comprising**~~ **consisting of** the amino acid sequence ~~**NQQRLNLWGCKGKLICYTSVKNW**~~ **NQQRLNLWGCKGKLICYTSVKWN (SEQ ID NO: 2)**.

34. (previously presented) The peptide of claim 33, wherein C represents a cysteine residue in an oxidized state.

35. (currently amended) The peptide of claim 24 ~~**comprising**~~ **consisting of** the amino acid sequence RLQALETLIQNQQRLNLWGSKGKLIS **(SEQ ID NO: 4)**.

Claims 36-49 (canceled).